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Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Nathan Condemns David 2 Samuel 12:1-9, 13-15

Lesson Background and Introduction

At the time of today’s lesson, the Israelite army was fighting the Ammonites (Genesis 19:38; Deuteronomy 2:19). The date was about 990 BC. With a good general directing his army, a king could stay home to take care of administrative concerns or personal matters. King David had such a man in Joab (2 Samuel 8:16). Although not without ethical problems of his own (see 3:30), Joab was a fierce and unrelenting warrior, at that time very loyal to David. One day while home, David seemed to have been enjoying a nap on the roof (compare 1 Samuel 9:25). What David saw was the woman Bathsheba performing a ritual bath for purification (see 2 Samuel 11:4; compare Leviticus 15:19–24). King David’s notice of Bathsheba quickly turned to lust. He ended up sleeping with her, which resulted in a pregnancy (2 Samuel 11:5). David tried to influence her husband, Uriah, to go to his own house before returning to battle. Little did Uriah know that his sense of honor sealed his fate (11:14–17), as he carried his own death warrant back to Joab. After Uriah’s death, David took Bathsheba as his own wife. Nine months later, it looked as though David had gotten away with these crimes. There is always a temptation when reading a story to put oneself in the shoes of the hero. I would run into a burning building to save a child. But there is much to be gained by resisting the urge to identify with the hero. And if we’re being honest, we are frequently more like David than a hero. We think our sins have passed by without consequence, that maybe even God didn’t notice. Let David’s story warn us against such attitudes. Our sins have consequences in others’ lives. And sins we ignore instead of confess harden our hearts to other sins, making us complicit in the wickedness of others. The tendency to abuse our own influence must constantly be held in check. We must be willing not only to hold others to account but also to listen when Christian brothers and sisters do the same for us. By doing so we will fulfill the words of Christ: “First take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye” (Matthew 7:5).

(Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary)

Greed - King David committed adultery with Bathsheba. She sent word to David that their sexual encounter produced a child. He took it upon himself to handle the situation by murdering her husband, Uriah. For months, David attempted to cover it all up. However, God revealed David's immoral, murdering activities to the prophet Nathan. God's messenger confronted David concerning his injustice. To ward off the king's defensiveness, Nathan told David the story of a pet lamb. Nathan's story reported the greediness of a wealthy sheep owner. The owner of the household needed meat to prepare a meal for a traveling guest. Rather than taking a lamb from his own large flock, he stole a poor man's only pet lamb and slaughtered it. David was outraged and demanded the death of the rich man. After the lamb story, Nathan delivered the shocking news to David—you are that man! Nathan listed the wealth and blessings God had done and given to David, then pointed out David was the greedy person in the story.

Confession - David confessed before Nathan. He refused to make any more excuses or engage in any other cover up plans. David admitted he had sinned against the Lord. David's confession demonstrates why God called him, not a perfect man, but a man after God's own heart.

Repentance - Injustice can dramatically affect an entire family, community, or nation, ultimately causing harm to innocent people. Like a cancer, it needs to be cut out. Will we submit to the needed surgery?

(Adapted from the Echoes Commentary)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
Sometimes following God means difficult conversations

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:
Dear God, please help me know when to lovingly confront others

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men
(Rom 12:18 NKJV)
(from "Our Daily Bread", Nov 19, 2018)

Series: Justice, Law, History

UNIT 3: Justice and Adversity

NEXT WEEK

Ezra and the Law (Ezra 7:1-10, 23-26)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Condemn through Making Sin Known (2 Sam 12:1-4)

Be led by the Holy Spirit to confront (1)

Be led by the Spirit because only the spiritual should attempt to restore those who have been caught up in sin (Gal 6:1)

Be led by the Spirit because it promotes peace (Rom 8:6)

Be led by the Spirit because the strong should bear with the failings of the weak (Rom 15:1)

Be led by the Spirit because restoring someone covers a multitude of sins (James 5:19-20)

Seek the conviction of the Holy Spirit (2-4)

Conviction through the power of the Holy Spirit (1 Thess 1:4-7)

Conviction through the certainty of God's word (2 Peter 1:19)

Conviction to obey is to be counted righteous (Rom 2:13)

Conviction because God will punish those who do not obey (2 Thess 1:8)

Conviction because it is shameful to be disobedient (2 Thess 3:14)

Conviction because judgment starts with the family of God (1 Peter 4:17)

Conviction because no one knows the time when Jesus will come back (Rev 3:3)

Condemn through Indignation (2 Sam 12:5-9)

Indignation because of the gravity of the sin (5)

God examines all and hates wickedness and violence (Ps 11:5)

The seven detestable things to God: pride, lying, violence, wicked heart, eagerness to sin, false witness and sower of discord (Prov 6:16-19)

The wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23)

A man must reap what he sows (Gal 6:7-8)

Every work will be judged and if found lacking, loss will be suffered (1 Cor 3:12-15)

Indignation that leads to restitution (6)

Restitution through repayment (Luke 19:8)

Restitution for stealing (Ex 22:2-3)

Restitution through reconciliation (Matt 5:23-24)

Restitution through repentance (2 Cor 7:8-11)

Indignation because of guilt (7)

Guilt because evil causes war in our mind (Rom 7:23-25)

Guilt because there is a longing to clear oneself (2 Cor 7:10-11)

Guilt because it brings remorse at the knowledge of our weakness (Matt 26:75)

Guilt because it leaves us unworthy and seeking mercy from God (Luke 18:13)

Guilt because of the accountability and responsibility (Matt 27:3-5)

Indignation because of missed blessings (8-9)

Missed blessing that leads to death without knowledge (Job 36:12)

Missed blessing because of destruction through lack of knowledge (Hos 4:6)

Missed blessing that leads to eating the fruit of own ways (Prov 1:29-32)

Missed blessing by not recognizing the way to eternal life (John 5:38-40)

Missed blessing that leads to God's wrath and anger (Rom 2:8)

Missed blessing through rejecting God and His Holy Spirit (1 Thess 4:8)

Condemn to Bring True Confession (2 Sam 12:13-15)

Confession of sin (13)

Confession acknowledges sins and leads to forgiveness (Ps 32:5)

Confession renounces sin and finds mercy (Prov 28:13)

Confession acknowledges that God is right in His judgment (Ps 51:3-4)

Confession of sins to God leads to forgiveness (1 John 1:9)

Confession along with repentance leads to healing (2 Chron 7:14)

Confession of being a stumbling block to others (14)

Stumbling block by standing in the way of others entering the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 23:13)

Stumbling block by misuse of freedom (1 Cor. 8:9)

Stumbling block by not loving our brothers and sisters (1 John 2:10)

Stumbling block because we are not perfect (James 3:2)

Stumbling block by causing others to sin (Matt 18:6)

Confession because others will be impacted (15)

Confession because of questions of guilt (John 13:21-24)

Confession through prayer to God (Josh 7:4-8)

Confession by questioning the cause of problems (John 9:2)

Confession by calling to God for mercy (Ps 51:1-4)

Confession by calling to God for forgiveness (Ex 32:30)

Confession on behalf of family (1 Sam 2:17, 22-25)